

# NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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BY W. J. MURTAGH & CO.  
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Monday, March 10, 1862.

Reading Matter on every page.

CLUBS FOR THE DAILY NATIONAL REPUBLICAN TO SOLDIERS.  
A PAPER THAT EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD HAVE.

We have been induced to offer our daily paper to soldiers, who shall form clubs, at the following low rates:  
1 copy, 4 months..... \$1.50  
5 copies, 4 months..... 4.00  
10 copies, 4 months..... 10.00  
All over ten copies, at the rate of one dollar per copy for four months.

The names must always be accompanied with the money.  
Write the names distinctly, and give the company and the number of the regiment.  
The papers will be mailed to one name, or the names will be written separately, if desired.

## THE PRESIDENT'S EMANCIPATION MESSAGE.

This memorable document is at once recognized by the whole country as the President's own act, not "tampered with" (to use the language of a contemporary) by constitutional advisers, or by unconstitutional advisers, but Mr. Lincoln's message, in Mass and in language, from the beginning to the end of it.

Its reception in pro-slavery quarters shows that certain politicians, who have been committing themselves by hypocritical laudations of the President, during the past six months, are beginning to be apprehensive that they have "caught a Tartar." They will have no doubt of it, if they live six months longer.

Mr. Sautsbury, of Delaware, as will have been noticed, took the step, extreme and unusual in the practice of the Senate, of interposing a parliamentary objection to the introduction by Mr. Wilson of resolutions embodying Mr. Lincoln's policy. Mr. Sautsbury knows well that that policy will at once create an emancipation party in Delaware, with which he will have to contend at home for political existence.

Some pro-slavery journals are counseling themselves with the idea that the recommendation of certain measures for the consideration of those border States which have remained loyal in the Union, is to be taken as a conclusion of the whole subject, and a commitment of the President against other measures elsewhere. There is no foundation for that view of the subject. The New York Tribune, for example, has been urging, for many months, that Delaware and Maryland should be offered a pecuniary compensation for their slave property, but at the same time, and with equal persistency, has urged that rebels in the rebel States should be deprived of their slaves without compensation. It is plain that no inference of any kind as to the views of the President in respect to slavery in the rebel States, can be drawn merely from his recommendations on that subject, in respect to loyal States. The two things are wholly distinct and different. And the President's message leaves no occasion for inferences, being express and decided in its admonition to rebels, that their persistence in this war will certainly be followed by every measure judged to be most efficient to bring it to a conclusion. Those who do not know what that means, will be little likely to be enlightened by anybody's comments. Republicans are perfectly satisfied with it; and if others are, so much the better.

The great, transcendent fact is, that for the first time in two generations we have the recommendation from the presidential chair of the abolition of slavery, and of measures by Congress to invite and assist it. This crowns the political revolution of 1860, by carrying it up to the highest plane indicated by any event. It is no longer the non-extension of an odious institution into new Territories, which will satisfy the national ideal of which Mr. Lincoln is the chosen and honored exponent. The work of abolishing it where it now exists, always present among the "solidities" of the "Father of his Country," is proclaimed and recommended anew by a successor who represents, in the chief executive office, a generation returning, after years of wandering, to the grand ideas of the founders of the Republic. Nor is it to this country alone that this immortal message proclaims the end of a dreary night and the dawning of a glorious day. It will be resounded to the uttermost ends of the earth, as authoritative assurance of the fact that the great and free people of America are at last determined to shake off the stigma and crime and folly of chattel-slavery.

DESPERATION OF PAPER.—The rebel newspapers, resolutions in Congress, and addresses of governors and generals, all indicate a determination to perish to the last man and in the last ditch, rather than submit to the hated "domination of the North." This spirit would be formidable, if it was that of the rebel soldiery which does not seem to be the case. They have attacked nothing since the war began, except Lexington, where their numerical superiority was six to one. In two or three instances out of twenty, they have defended themselves bravely, but nowhere with anything like the desperate courage with which the Spaniards defended Zaragoza. As a general rule, they run or surrender, and frequently, as admitted by themselves, under circumstances of great ignominy. It is only the other day that at Roanoke Island, with a force equal to that with which Gen. Jackson defeated New Orleans, they yielded the strongest positions with a loss of only eleven killed. To all appearances, as yet, the desperation of which we hear so much, is the desperation of leaders, not of the popular masses, or of the rank and file of the army.

Gen. Pillow's Account.—Gen. Pillow's official report of the defense and surrender of Fort Donelson does full justice to the valor of the Federal troops. He says that the rebels, forced back for some distance by the shells of Saturday, Feb. 12, they continued to fight and to retreat every inch of ground. He says that in the consultation of the rebel generals on Saturday night, Gen. Buckner declared his men to be too much demoralized and exhausted to resist further, and that the national army, with its advantage of a lodgment within the lines of the entrenchments, secured on Saturday evening, could have taken the fort on Sunday morning in half an hour.

Gen. Pillow's report is dignified by one glaring omission, viz: that the total force of the garrison was only 12,000 men. The people of the South, we suppose, will not be permitted to know that we took upwards of 18,000 prisoners, after all the slaughter, and after the withdrawal of Floyd's force by steamboat, and of a considerable body of cavalry by land.

COLUMBUS.—The extraordinary success of the rebels in evacuating Columbus without the loss of a man, provokes many criticisms upon the management of General Halleck. In order to give him the benefit of the defense made by his friends, we copy the following account of the arrangements to capture the rebel force, from the Chicago Tribune, a paper in his interest:

"Gen. Pope, in Missouri, left Commerce, but a few miles above Cairo, and marched his strong column to New Madrid, a point on the Mississippi river due east of Union City, on the Missouri side. A large force from Paducah, and with them from the Cumberland, proceeded to Maryland, and thence the advance directly westward upon Columbus. Nor was this a third strong column of troops, flushed with victory on the Tennessee and Cumberland, seized, or were about to seize, Union City, cutting off retreat by railroad to Memphis. Thus it will be seen that the rebels were cooped like rats in a trap, and had they remained, could have been overhauled at leisure. They wisely withdrew."

If, in addition to these arrangements, a force of gunboats had been on the spot, the enemy's retreat by the river, without great loss, would seem to have been impossible.

BURNING COTTON, &c.—An adjourned meeting of planters was held at Richmond on the 28th of February, largely attended, and quite filling that favorite gathering-place, the African Church. Resolutions were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted, to burn all cotton and tobacco likely to fall into the hands of the "Yankees," and to indemnify the sufferers out of a particularly roomy and empty chest, known as the public chest of the Confederate States. The Richmond papers exult greatly over these resolutions. They say that if the South must fall, it will drag down the whole world and all civilization in its fall, not doubting that Christendom would forthwith relapse into the barbarism of the Middle Ages, if deprived of the cotton and tobacco grown by Southern negroes.

STRENGTH OF THE CONFEDERATES AT MANASSAS.—The following special dispatch from Washington, dated March 6th, was published in the New York Tribune. We give it for what it is worth:

The following statement of the strength and disposition of the rebel force opposed to the Union army of the Potomac, I have the best reason for saying, was perfectly accurate four days ago. Changes have very probably occurred since, but the main facts must still correspond with the figures which I proceed to give you.

At Centerville, which is now the strong point of the rebels, there are 55,000 infantry, 11,000 cavalry, and 120 pieces of cannon, light and heavy. Behind the batteries along the Potomac there are from 12,000 to 15,000 men.

At Gum Spring, between Leesburg and Centerville, there are three regiments of infantry, with a squadron of cavalry.

At Leesburg there are three regiments of infantry, one battery, and four hundred cavalry.

At a point five miles south of Leesburg, that is to say, some ten miles south of Manassas, there is one brigade of infantry of 3,500 men.

These forces do not include any part of Jackson's army, forming the rebel left wing.

Mr. Vanderbilt's Refusal to take the Aspinwall Mail.

The following is a copy of the letter of Postmaster General Blair to the Post Office Committee of both Houses in regard to Mr. Vanderbilt's refusal to carry the mails to Aspinwall:

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1862.  
GENTLEMEN: I have received formal notice from Cornelius Vanderbilt, controlling the steamship line to Aspinwall, that he will not take the South Pacific or any other mails after the 21st instant. This is an attempt to coerce Congress to contract with him on his own terms for carrying these mails. I called the attention of Congress to the coercive system exercised by the railroad companies upon the Government, in my annual report.

I trust suitable measures will be adopted to maintain the public interests in that behalf. But this steamboat coercion requires immediate attention. Unless something is done at once, vast mercantile interests will be seriously affected. My own opinion is, that this and every other line of steamers leaving our ports should be required to take mails to their ports of destination upon such terms as are now or may hereafter be allowed by Congress, as the condition of clearance. It is not pretended that the compensation now given is not sufficient for the service rendered. No private persons pay them for any kind of transportation at the same rate paid by the Government for mail matter. We give all and more than we make out of it. And no persons so much benefited incidentally as the owners of the ships; for the bulk of the correspondence relates to the trade carried on by their vessels.

M. BLAIN, Postmaster General.

STORY OF BEAUREGARD'S SICKNESS.—A gentleman, who was in Columbus, Kentucky, immediately after the battle of Donelson, states that he conferred with Generals Cheatham, Polk and Beauregard, and the story of his being dangerously ill is unfounded. He states, also, that Gen. Polk has not the confidence of a single man in the army, that he is as much a traitor, and that in case of a fight he would be the first to be shot, and by his own soldiers. On the contrary, Polk has the reputation of a man of great coolness and bravery.

The Memphis Appeal of the 28th of February contains several advertisements for recruits, to whom a bounty of \$50 each is offered. A telegram from New Orleans states that gold in that city is in active demand at a premium of from 60 to 65 per cent.

OPENING OF THE TELEGRAPH LINE TO FORT MONROE.—The telegraph line to Fort Monroe was built by order of the Secretary of War, under the direction of the general manager of military telegraphs. The line of the Government line connecting the Delaware, to Cape Charles, was completed in thirty-three days. Thirty miles of wire was manufactured for the channel crossing in twenty days from the date of the order, by S. C. Bishop, of New York city. The sixteen miles that was laid before the recent gale was replaced in good condition. The cable is replaced the portion lost off Cape Henry was furnished by Mr. Bishop in two days. The telegraph was tested at Cape Charles at four o'clock this Sunday, afternoon by Mr. W. H. Helm, Assistant Manager, Government telegraphs, who had the immediate charge of the work. Its completion at this opportune moment to bring the news of the splendid victory of the Monitor, and the disabling of the Merrimack, has saved the country from great anxiety and expense.

The delay in completing the cable connection has been owing entirely to the continued boisterous weather.

Blair Wright, long distinguished by his anti-slavery zeal, is now the Secretary of the Board of Insurance Commissioners of Massachusetts. Having occasion to describe the assets of the State Fire Insurance Company of New Haven, he spoke of a part of them as follows:

"What was left we found consisted of \$135,100 of mortgages, nearly all on city property, but on 24,000 acres of land lying in the mountains, wilderness of Northern New York, of little other than historical value as holding the body of that honored patriot whose soul is now marching on, and will triumph as soon as the present war ceases to be waged wrong and forever."

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RAISING THE POTOMAC BLOCKADE.—We have the gratification to state that Gen. Hooker officially reports that all the enemy's batteries in front of his lines are entirely abandoned, and their guns spiked. Some of the guns of which we have taken possession appear to be valuable pieces. This virtually opens the Potomac, and raises the so-called blockade of the Potomac.

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RAISING THE POTOMAC BLOCKADE.—We have the gratification to state that Gen. Hooker officially reports that all the enemy's batteries in front of his lines are entirely abandoned, and their guns spiked. Some of the guns of which we have taken possession appear to be valuable pieces. This virtually opens the Potomac, and raises the so-called blockade of the Potomac.

No COMPROMISE.—In the rebel Congress, a few days ago, a resolution was unanimously passed to entertain no peace propositions excluding any portion of the soil of any of the Confederate States, and declaring that the war be continued until the enemy be expelled entirely from the Confederacy. Peace men; and compromisers, will please take notice.

NEW MADRID.—The rebel force at this point is not supposed to be a part of that which evacuated Columbus. Southern troops Missouri swarms with rebels, and indeed, their position there has not, until recently, been disturbed, being covered by the rebel occupation of Columbus.

From the St. Louis Democrat.

Our Present Danger.  
There is a danger, insidious indeed, but for that reason requiring to be guarded against with vigilant care. Whenever plans of pacification and adjustment are proposed, we shall find an attempt to give to slavery new concessions and new guarantees. Plausible appeals will be made to the loyal States, not to press the victory or to humiliate the vanquished, but to propitiate "our misguided Southern brethren," and woo them back to loyalty and fraternal union. Something of this kind has been attempted in the conduct of the war itself. There were persons who urged that our military efforts should make it their prime duty to pursue the victory or to humiliate the vanquished, but to propitiate "our misguided Southern brethren," and woo them back to loyalty and fraternal union. Something of this kind has been attempted in the conduct of the war itself.

The end of the war will be the beginning of a new era. The loyal States are too powerful for the seceding States to contend with in the field. But the latter are skillful in the use of another sort. Whether in framing party platforms, or shaping measures of legislation to their own purpose, they have always been an overmatch for their sterner and less cunning opponents. Add to this the advantage they possess in having among themselves a considerable party, who value the Union in deed, and stand firmly by the Union. Their conception of both is that slavery is its sole end and object—that the Union is valuable, because without it there would be no redemption of slaves, and that the Constitution, a shield of being designed to "secure the blessing of liberty," was framed solely to insure the master against the possible loss of his slave. In accordance with this theory, they would make any amendments which the interests of slavery might require.

Now, we imagine, the American people have profited somewhat by the experience of the past year. They are not likely to rate so high the benefits which the slave power has conferred upon them as to be willing to offer it more political strength and resources, to be employed in another rebellion. They will be apt to do this, as a settlement as may assure them that this battle between slavery and freedom is not to be fought over again by their children.

A recent visitor to John Tyler's home at Hampton